



Press Release

For Immediate Release
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District Responds to Sewer Overflow in Sonoma

Sonoma, CA— The Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District (SVCSD) reported that a sewage overflow occurred in the vicinity of Princeton Drive in the Sonoma area on Sunday, October 21, 2007 at about 11:00 a.m. An estimated 270 gallons of untreated sewage overflowed from the site. The District staff dispatched to the site arrived on location at about 2:00 pm and cleared the blockage in the sewer pipe by about 2:15 p.m. Crews recovered about 50 gallons of sewage and completed cleanup and disinfection of the site. Approximately 220 gallons of sewage were not recovered and are presumed to have flown into a storm drain leading to Sonoma Creek.

Regulatory officials were notified of the overflow and necessary cautionary signs were posted. The cause of the overflow is under investigation. Preliminary indications suggest that a grease blockage may have occurred in the District's sewer pipeline. The pipeline was last cleaned on June 3, 2006. District staff have accelerated the schedule for cleaning this pipeline to once every three months to avoid a recurrence of the overflow.

"Keeping these older sewer lines open and operable has been a challenge for the District," said Pam Jeane, Deputy Chief Engineer for the Sonoma County Water Agency which operates the system on behalf of SVCSD. "The public can be big help to us in this effort by avoiding disposal of cooking grease or oil in sinks or sanitary drains." Ms. Jeane added.

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Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood protection and sanitation services for portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. Visit us on the Web at www.sonomacountywater.org.